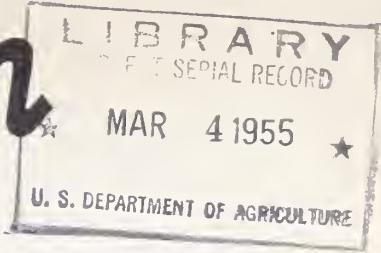


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

F

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



(FOR RELEASE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1955)

VOLUME 70

NUMBER 9

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COTTON	
U.S. Cotton Exports in December Highest Since February 1952.....	217
Cotton Production in the Belgian Congo.....	216
Peru's Cotton Exports at Last Year's Level.....	216
FATS, OILSEEDS AND OILS	
U.S. Lard Exports Up Somewhat in 1954.....	220
U.S. Exports of Tallow and Greases Continue at High Level.....	222
France to Subsidize Oilseed Production.....	224
LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	
Australian Wool Prices.....	212
Italian Cheese Prices May be Affected by Ruling.....	213
Panama Prohibits Dry Whole Milk Imports; Order Temporary.....	213
Ireland: Poultry and Eggs.....	213
Mexican Slaughter Industry.....	214
Uruguay Plans Smaller Meat Exports.....	215
World Butter and Cheese Prices.....	225
TOBACCO	
U.S. Tobacco Exports Lower in 1954.....	226
Large Tobacco Harvest Expected in the Dominican Republic.....	219
Philippine Republic Allocates 1955 Tobacco Import Quota.....	220

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

Foreign Crops and Markets is distributed only upon a request basis. Should you find you have no need for this publication, please tear off the addressograph imprint with your name and address, pencil "drop" upon it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5922, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis
on Australian Auction floors, by quality
classification

	70's		64's		60's		58's		56's		50's	
	Super	Average	Super	Average	Super	Average	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
-----U. S. Dollars per Pound-----												
<u>1950-51</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sept.	: 2.62:	2.48:	2.43:	2.27:	2.01:	1.95:	1.83:	1.56:	1.30:			
Dec.	: 2.73:	2.63:	2.55:	2.51:	2.35:	2.29:	2.09:	1.86:	1.66:			
March	: 3.88:	3.51:	3.53:	3.46:	3.50:	3.45:	3.32:	2.97:	2.28:			
June	: 1/ 2.40:	2.17:1/	2.28:	1.99:1/	2.14:1/	1.93:1/	1.79:1/	1.63:	1.26:			
<u>1951-52</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		
Sept.	: 1.33:	1.22:	1.17:	1.08:	1.06:	.98:	.91:	.78:	.60:			
Dec.	: 1.63:	1.57:	1.51:	1.44:	1.36:	1.36:	1.13:	.94:	.77:			
March	: 1.32:	1.25:	1.24:	1.18:	1.06:	1.00:	.91:	.72:	.57:			
June	: 1.59:	1.53:	1.47:	1.40:	1.24:	1.17:	1.07:	.84:	.68:			
<u>1952-53</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:			
Sept.	: 1/ 1.59:1/	1.52:	1.41:	1.36:	1.23:	1.18:	1.04:	.89:	.68:			
Dec.	: 1/ 1.82:	1.69:	1.57:	1.52:	1.34:	1.30:	1.15:	.96:	.78:			
March	: 1/ 1.91:	1.80:	1.67:	1.60:	1.43:	1.32:	1.22:	.98:	.82:			
June	: 1/ 1.89:	1.83:1/	1.78:1/	1.66:1/	1.52:1/	1.40:1/	1.26:1/	.97:1/	.85:			
<u>1953-54</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:			
Sept.	: 1.89:	1.81:	1.75:	1.60:	1.52:	1.42:	1.32:	1.07:	.89:			
Oct.	: 1.90:	1.80:	1.73:	1.60:	1.49:	1.42:	1.35:	1.19:	.97:			
Nov.	: 1.96:	1.82:	1.73:	1.61:	1.50:	1.42:	1.34:	1.18:	.97:			
Dec.	: 1.96:	1.76:	1.67:	1.58:	1.45:	1.35:	1.31:	1.14:	.93:			
Jan.	: 1.95:	1.74:	1.63:	1.54:	1.41:	1.32:	1.26:	1.08:	.92:			
Feb.	: 1.89:	1.68:	1.59:	1.49:	1.38:	1.27:	1.19:	1.13:	.89:			
March	: 1.82:	1.64:	1.55:	1.49:	1.35:	1.24:	1.19:	1.04:	.88:			
April	: 1.79:	1.66:	1.59:	1.54:	1.42:	1.31:	1.28:	1.14:	.96:			
May	: 1.82:	1.69:	1.62:	1.58:	1.48:	1.38:	1.34:	1.22:	1.02:			
June	: 1.87:	1.74:	1.67:	1.62:	1.55:	1.43:	1.35:	1.25:	1.04:			
<u>1954-55</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:			
Sept.	: 1.63:	1.56:	1.48:	1.40:	1.39:	1.29:	1.26:	1.18:	.98:			
Oct.	: 1/ 1.62:	1.53:	1.45:	1.36:1/	1.34:	1.23:	1.21:	1.15:	.99:			
Nov.	: 1.57:	1.44:	1.35:	1.28:	1.22:	1.16:	1.09:	1.00:	.90:			
Dec.	: 1.60:	1.47:	1.38:	1.32:	1.26:	1.21:	1.14:	1.04:	.90:			
Jan.	: 1.56:	1.43:	1.34:	1.28:	1.22:	1.17:	1.11:	1.03:	.90:			
Feb. 2/	: 1.58:	1.46:	1.37:	1.31:	1.25:	1.19:	1.15:	1.07:	.93:			

1/ Quotations nominal.

2/ Week ending February 4

ITALIAN CHEESE PRICES MAY BE AFFECTED BY RULING

The recent suspension of the decree of Ministry of Foreign Trade of September 28, 1954 on export prices of accordions may also affect the price of Italian cheese for export.

The Ministry had decreed that exports of accordions were subject to certain minimum price standards, but this was challenged by some of the smaller exporters who favored fluid prices and their contention has been upheld in a preliminary finding of the Consiglio di Stato, an administrative court. The court held the Ministry did not have the authority to determine minimum prices; that while it could forbid exports it could not forbid them solely on the basis of failure to comply with stated minimum export prices; that there was no proven technical and economic considerations demonstrating the necessity for price controls.

Pecorino cheese, about 12 million pounds of which are exported annually to the United States, is also under a minimum price standard regulation of the Ministry when exported. While the Ministry expects to maintain the price standards it is possible that some action may be taken to remove the regulation when the Consiglio di Stato renders its final decision on the accordion case or if exporters should challenge the minimum price standard decree applied to them.

PANAMA PROHIBITS DRY WHOLE MILK IMPORTS; ORDER TEMPORARY

The Panama Office of Price Control, under Resolution No. 34, has just prohibited the importation of powdered whole milk. The order bars further imports except shipments en route as of February 11. Orders not actually loaded on shipboard in exporting ports must be cancelled.

The order is believed due to the building up of a considerable supply of imported milk powder. The Office of Price Control has indicated that it will allow future importations depending on consumer requirements.

IRELAND: POULTRY AND EGGS

Ireland in 1954 is expected to produce 840 million eggs, 22 percent below 1953 production, according to Louis M. Smith, Agriculture Attaché, American Embassy, Dublin. Chicken numbers on June 1, 1954 are estimated at 13 million compared to 16 million in 1953. The decrease in chickens was brought about primarily because the egg contract with the United Kingdom was abolished the latter part of 1953. Chicken numbers and egg production for 1955 are not expected to change significantly compared to 1954. Turkey numbers for 1954 are estimated at 1,650,000 compared to 1,625,000 for 1953.

Ireland is a surplus producer of eggs and in 1954 felt the effects of over-production following dissolution of its contract with the United Kingdom. To create new markets, Irish trade missions were established. The missions to Germany and Spain helped to bring about new markets for Irish eggs. Export prices of eggs dropped severely in 1954 to 37 cents per dozen, or 33 percent below the 1953 average.

Ireland: Export of Shell Eggs (January-November)
1953 and 1954

Country of Destination :	1953	1954
	<u>Million eggs</u>	<u>Million eggs</u>
Northern Ireland.....	N.A.	18.8
Great Britain	233.8	52.1
Belgium.....	N.A.	6.6
West Germany.....	N.A.	33.3
Spain.....	N.A.	8.4
Total.....	237.2	122.6

MEXICAN SLAUGHTER
INDUSTRY

Eighteen federally-inspected slaughter plants were in operation in Mexico during 1954 and inspected slaughter, while furnishing meat products for export, was not important in supplying meat for local consumption. Inspected slaughter during 1954 of 228,000 cattle and calves, 93,000 hogs, 4,000 sheep and lambs and 8,000 horses was only a small percentage of total slaughter.

The output of Mexico's inspected plants during 1954 was close to that of a year earlier but much below either 1951 and 1952. The lower slaughter reflects the sharp drop in beef exports during the past 2 years.

A new plant to slaughter hogs opened in February 1954 at the city of Aguascalientes, as a branch of a plant in the city of Chihuahua. The new plant ships hog carcasses to the Chihuahua plant for processing.

A horse slaughter plant began operations under inspection at Villa Ahumada, Chihuahua in September 1954. This was the fifth plant to slaughter horses during the year. Horsemeat exports, all to the United States for pet food, during 1954, exceeded 12 million pounds.

Mexico: Summary of Federally Inspected Meat Packing Plants
by Type of Slaughter 1954

Type of plant	Number	Total slaughter (number of head)	Average slaughter per plant (number of head)
All plants	18	-	-
Slaughtering:			
Cattle	14	227,877	16,277
Hogs	8	92,726	11,591
Sheep and lambs	4	4,219	1,055
Horses	5	7,636	1,527

URUGUAY PLANS SMALLER
MFAT EXPORTS

Beef exports from Uruguay during 1955 will be less than two-fifths as large as in 1954 according to a decree of the National Council of Government on February 7, in view of an expected shortage of cattle for slaughter. Planned exports of frozen beef this year will be 44 million pounds compared with 110 million last year and planned shipments of canned beef of 22 million pounds will be about one-third the 1954 total. Subsidies on the beef exports during 1955 are estimated at 21.5 million pesos.

The new export policy seeks to stabilize cattle prices and to effect the resumption of operations by the 3 foreign frigorificos (meat packing plants), which have been nearly shut down during the past 7 months and whose several thousand employees have been living on payments from the Meat Workers Unemployment Compensation Fund. Reduced exports reflect the need to supply Uruguay's domestic requirements so as not to repeat last year's serious meat shortage.

Subsidies on frozen beef for export will amount to about 47 percent of the sale price. Subsidies on canned corned beef will be around 183 percent of the sale price, taking into account its higher export exchange rate, according to estimates of the government sponsored packer, Frigorifico Nacional. The prevailing export exchange rate for canned meat is 2.20 pesos to the dollar; for frozen beef it is 1.519 pesos to the dollar.

The export packers are in disagreement with Frigorifico Nacional's cost figures and claim that they are unable to finance operations until their 1954 losses (approximately 9 million pesos) are paid by the Government. They say their individual slaughter quotas and export allocations are too small for profitable operations. Exports will be allocated among the packers at the traditional percentages.

An alternative to direct subsidy payments for meat exports would be the upward adjustment of exchange rates. But the rate for frozen beef would need to be raised to 2.23 pesos per dollar and for canned meat to 4.30 pesos to the dollar. Many Government officials have been reluctant to take this course because of a corresponding need for an even further upward adjustment in controlled import exchange rates.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN THE BELGIAN CONGO

Latest estimates of cotton production in the Belgian Congo indicate that the 1954-55 crop may be somewhat lower than the 1953-54 crop of approximately 240,000 bales (500 pounds gross) according to Robert G. McGregor, American Consul, American Consulate General, Leopoldville. Official estimates for a period covering the past 6 years show that an expansion in acreage of about 15 per cent has taken place during this period. The 1953-54 cotton acreage is estimated at nearly 900,000 acres.

Approximately 80 percent of the cotton grown in the Belgian Congo is exported, with exports for 1953-54 reported at 200,000 bales. Of this amount 160,000 bales were exported to Belgium, much of it for transshipment to Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands. Other destinations of Congo cotton were the United Kingdom 27,000 bales, Sweden 9,000, Southern Rhodesia 2,000, and Kenya and Uganda 3,000 bales. Total exports in 1952-53 were reported at 212,000 bales, principally to the same destinations as in 1953-54.

Cotton consumption in the Belgian Congo has increased about 60 percent during the past 6 years, increasing from 28,000 bales in 1948-49 to 45,000 in 1953-54. Stocks on July 31, 1954, were estimated at approximately 75,000 bales, down slightly from 80,000 held a year earlier.

Prices and demand for Belgian Congo cotton reportedly held up well during the 1953-54 year. The marketing organization for Congo cotton, COVENCO (Comptoir de Vente des Coton du Congo) states that much of the cotton was of superior quality, and brought a price in Europe of some $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound over the New York price for standard cotton. The average price at the ginneries in the interior of the Congo as of November 30, 1954, was 35.50 Belgian Congo francs per kilo for first quality cotton (equivalent to 32.21 U.S. cents per pound) and 28 francs per kilo for second quality (25.40 U.S. cents per pound).

PERU'S COTTON EXPORTS AT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL

Cotton exports from Peru during the first 5 months (August-December) of the 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 156,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or approximately the same as during the corresponding period of the previous year, according to George H. Day, Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, Lima. Principal destinations of this year's cotton were Chile, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Western Germany.

PERU: Exports of cotton by countries of destination;
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1952 and 1953;
August-December 1953 and 1954

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination :	Year beginning August 1			August-December		
	Averages		1952	1953	1953	1954
	1935-39	1945-49				
:	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
:	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium.....	14.2	25.4	47.5	44.2	14.7	20.5
France.....	9.0	5.9	24.6	25.4	10.5	9.8
Germany.....	78.3	2.5	30.2	43.3	22.3	16.2
Italy.....	5.2	14.9	2.6	2.4	1.0	.6
Netherlands.....	13.7	10.3	24.8	26.8	6.8	5.3
Switzerland.....	.6	21.6	6.3	5.6	4.1	9.1
United Kingdom.....	169.4	83.7	74.2	104.4	24.2	23.3
United States.....	1.6	25.8	14.6	8.0	6.2	13.9
India.....	2.7	28.4	3.5	.3	0	4.5
Japan.....	29.6	.2	16.6	12.7	7.8	7.6
Argentina.....	.3	6.8	6.6	14.0	7.6	2.2
Chile.....	8.5	28.3	71.9	33.3	23.8	29.8
Colombia.....	.4	29.4	39.1	20.6	17.2	4.9
Other countries.....	4.3	18.1	35.1	20.1	10.5	7.9
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total.....	337.8	301.3	397.6	361.1	156.7	155.6

Compiled from "Algodon".

Latest estimates of the 1953-54 cotton crop in Peru place production at 470,000 bales, and the 1954-55 crop is expected to amount to approximately the same figure. This production represents a substantial increase over recent years; amounting to 4 percent more than the 1952-53 crop of 450,000 bales and 10 percent above the 1951-52 crop of 429,000 bales.

Advance sales of next year's crop continue to be somewhat below corresponding sales a year ago. Prices of Tanguis cottons continued steady through December, around the level established in November, and are seasonally the highest on record. Prices of Pima cotton which also averaged about the same as in November showed further strength toward the end of the month and, with the exception of December 1951, were the highest on record.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS IN DECEMBER HIGHEST SINCE FEBRUARY 1952

Exports of cotton from the United States in December topped the half-million bale mark - 515,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (497,000 running bales). This favorable rate of shipments brings the total for the August-December period to 1,692,000 bales (1,626,000 running bales), a gain of about 32 percent over the 1,286,000 bales exported during the comparable period one year ago. Shipments to France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Canada have to date this season been running appreciably higher than for the same period of time last year.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1952 and 1953; August-December 1953 and 1954

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1						August-December 1953 : 1954	
	Averages		1952	1953				
	1935-39	1945-49						
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales		
Austria.....	0	1/	36	47	42	26	8	
Belgium-Luxembourg...	169		131	73	68	22	41	
Czechoslovakia.....	65		57	0	0	0	0	
Denmark.....	33		14	34	23	11	9	
Finland.....	35		21	4	10	0	0	
France.....	662		575	507	475	160	268	
Germany.....	511		340	241	389	103	188	
Italy.....	442		489	272	269	106	141	
Netherlands.....	107		131	79	104	32	44	
Norway.....	17		7	11	14	5	6	
Poland and Danzig....	180		69	0	0	0	0	
Portugal.....	36	2/		1	0	0	0	
Spain.....	108		69	77	167	88	34	
Sweden.....	115		12	36	43	13	30	
Switzerland.....	11		26	28	24	15	30	
United Kingdom.....	1,346		488	359	422	150	228	
Yugoslavia.....	17		47	86	40	21	30	
Other Europe.....	31	3/	33	6	10	3	3	
Total Europe.....	3,885		2,545	1,861	2,100	755	1,060	
	:	:	:	:	:	:		
Australia.....	9		7	11	45	13	23	
Canada.....	301		275	284	237	84	137	
Chile.....	9		20	1	27	5	7	
China.....	117		401	0	0	0	0	
Colombia.....	20		24	35	7	0	1	
Cuba.....	11		16	12	20	5	13	
French Indochina....	22		6	18	16	5	0	
Formosa.....	4/		1	107	110	47	35	
India.....	52		86	45	161	11	48	
Indonesia.....	2/		5	17	22	8	13	
Israel.....	4/		5	14	12	4	8	
Japan.....	1,142		585	691	1,005	297	260	
Korea, Republic of	4/	5/	48	41	96	37	68	
Philippines, Rep. of:	2		4	16	8	1	2	
Other countries.....	19	6/	37	28	48	14	17	
Total.....	5,589		4,065	3,181	3,914	1,286	1,692	

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Greece 21. 4/ If any, included in "Other countries". 5/ 3-year average. 6/ Includes Hong Kong 35
 7/ Includes Ethiopia 11, French Morocco 9, and Hong Kong 9.

Unofficial trade data published by the New York Cotton Exchange indicate that exports continued fairly heavy through mid-January. On the basis of these and other data, total exports for the first half of the current season are expected to approximate 2.3 million bales as compared with 1.6 million bales in the comparable period of last year.

On the other hand, late reports from the New York Cotton Exchange indicate that exports during the last week of January and first week of February fell behind last year's rate of shipments. This reverses the situation which has prevailed since early in November, at which time exports forged ahead of the previous year's rate for the comparable period. As previously reported, exports of cotton in the last half of the 1953-54 season were unusually high. In view of the indicated slowing down of exports as evidenced by the preliminary data mentioned above, it will probably be difficult to equal last year's shipments in the second half of the current season.

Prices of United States cotton continue steady at levels about a quarter of a cent above prices prevailing one year ago. Price quotations on most foreign cottons, Mexico being a notable exception, have to date held at levels considerably above those quoted at this time a year ago. Stocks of cotton continue at low levels in nearly all major importing countries but there are no definite indications that foreign buyers are evidencing any active interest in building up stocks at this time.

To date, sales for shipment to Yugoslavia pursuant to terms of the agreement negotiated with that country under Public Law 480, are reported to have totaled 38,800 bales. The total amount of cotton programmed in this agreement is expected to approximate 50,000 bales. Negotiations are still in process with several other countries for agreements which will include cotton and the final results of these discussions, the terms and the timing of the agreements, will have an important bearing on total cotton exports from the United States during the remaining months of the current marketing year.--By Samuel L. Crockett.

LARGE TOBACCO HARVEST EXPECTED
IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Reports from the Dominican Republic forecast a harvest in the first half of 1955 of approximately 50.5 million pounds of tobacco from 52,000 acres. Such an output, if realized, will be almost 22 percent above the 1954 harvest now placed at 41.5 million pounds, and would exceed the 1947-51 average production of 47 million pounds by 7 percent. Acreage for harvest in 1955 is estimated to be almost 11 percent above 1954 when 47,000 acres were harvested, and is 16 percent above the 1947-51 average.

Yields in 1954 were below earlier expectations when heavy rains beginning in the latter part of the growing season and continuing during harvest and curing caused considerable damage to both yield and quality. Conditions up to the first of February indicate higher yields for 1955.

By that time practically all the crop had been transplanted and recent rains had broken a severe dry spell in the tobacco area, giving the crop an excellent start. Another factor which should increase yields is a program by the Santiago Chamber of Commerce for the free distribution to farmers of tobacco plants from high quality seed. Santiago is in the heart of the tobacco district.

Production of criollo tobacco which is grown primarily for export is expected to reach 46 million pounds in 1955, as compared to approximately 37.8 million pounds in 1954 and more than 30 million pounds in 1953. Production of oler tobacco which is better quality tobacco used almost entirely for domestic consumption is expected to reach 4.5 million pounds in 1955, approximately 9 percent of the total crop. This compares with 3.7 and 3.8 million pounds of oler produced in 1954 and 1953 respectively.

Prices received by farmers for the 1954 crop of criollo tobacco varied from about 7 to 11 cents per pound and the average price received was about 9 cents. The average export price was approximately 18 cents per pound f.o.b. Puerto Plata, or about double the farm price. Farm price in 1953 averaged 12.5 cents per pound while the export price was about 19 cents.

A classification of the 1954 crop of oler tobacco shows that about 3 percent of this variety was cigar wrapper quality, 6.5 percent was binder tobacco, with the remainder classed as filler and scrap. In 1953 about 6.3 percent of the oler tobacco was classed as wrapper and the same percentage as binder tobacco. In both 1953 and 1954 between 2 and 3 percent of the criollo tobacco was estimated to be suitable for cigar wrapper and about 8 percent was suitable for binder with all the rest classified as cigar filler and scrap.

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC ALLOCATES 1955 TOBACCO IMPORT QUOTA

The American Embassy at Manila reports that the Philippine Central Bank was scheduled to allocate 1955 tobacco import quotas last week. Under the original quota provisions of Philippine Law No. 698, manufacturers and dealers may import approximately 7 million pounds of Virginia leaf. This is the basic import allowance and any additional imports come under the emergency provisions of the amended law at the discretion of the President of the Philippines.

U.S. LARD EXPORTS UP SOMEWHAT IN 1954

United States' lard exports in 1954 totaled 232,698 short tons, or an increase of 10 percent from 1953 shipments. Exports last year, however, were still only two-thirds as large as in 1951, when lard exports reached a postwar peak. The larger exports in 1954 were due partly to an increase in lard production in the latter half of the year. The expanded output of lard was reflected in a downward swing in lard prices and sharply increased exports during the fourth quarter of the year. October-December exports were up three-fourths from the corresponding period of 1953 and largely accounted for the over-all increase in shipments for the year.

UNITED STATES: Exports of lard, including rendered pork fat, by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1951-1954

(Short tons)

Country of destination	Average 1935-39	1951	1952	1953 1/	1954 1/
<u>North America:</u>					
Canada.....	1,038	6,467	967	3,510	1,646
Costa Rica.....	593	3,228	3,805	3,756	3,514
Cuba.....	19,956	72,787	36,908	71,196	79,163
Dominican Republic.....	230	-	434	74	20
El Salvador.....	2	1,910	1,721	2,390	2,024
Guatemala.....	198	4,199	2,968	3,655	4,467
Haiti.....	322	2,806	4,330	3,549	2,937
Mexico.....	2,749	15,548	18,525	19,992	15,325
Netherlands Antilles.....	154	478	804	928	223
Canal Zone.....	79	532	391	645	341
Panama, Republic of.....	516	2,789	3,839	3,406	4,716
Other.....	143	319	564	824	663
Total.....	25,980	111,063	125,256	113,925	115,039
<u>South America:</u>					
Bolivia.....	7	1,142	1,246	1,089	2,497
Brazil.....	-	18	8	5,191	2
Colombia.....	1,870	1,572	3,905	317	1,179
Ecuador.....	400	228	1,559	6,051	4,500
Peru.....	16	5,111	11,439	7,687	2,418
Venezuela.....	1,611	3,903	3,342	663	356
Other.....	8	72	83	64	56
Total.....	3,912	12,046	21,582	21,062	11,008
<u>Europe:</u>					
Austria.....	2/	10,819	17,859	10,343	9,239
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	1,230	2,064	215	84	35
Czechoslovakia.....	827	-	-	-	-
France.....	15	1,812	164	4	769
Germany (Western) 3/	2/	1,268	15,744	47,907	24,792
Greece.....	1	13	3	-	-
Italy.....	354	1,044	224	7	59
Netherlands.....	165	24,158	24,592	17,283	7,147
Poland.....	20	-	-	-	-
Switzerland.....	109	1,667	1,088	303	1,108
United Kingdom.....	47,866	115,770	51,422	12,098	48,553
Yugoslavia.....	2	42,588	19,378	10,379	13,393
Other.....	967	301	4,363 4/	6,431	178
Total.....	52,824	215,980	167,215	74,090	105,273
Soviet Union.....	2	-	-	-	-
Asia.....	18	5,037	2,687	2,194	1,170
Africa.....	79	92	129	8	-
Oceania.....	3	35	3	17	-
Grand Total.....	82,818	344,253	316,872	211,296 5/	232,698

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Austria included with Germany. 3/ Prior to January 1952, reported as Germany. 4/ Includes 5,945 tons to Sweden. 5/ Includes 208 tons, the final destination of which has not yet been designated.

Exports of lard to Europe were up more than two-fifths from 1953, with the increase largely in exports to the United Kingdom, Western Germany, and Yugoslavia. Shipments to the Netherlands, Sweden and Austria, however, were down from the year before.

Cuba maintained its position as the most important outlet for American lard with shipments to that country, up 10 percent from 1953, representing one-third of the total 1954 movement. Some decrease occurred in the quantities shipped to Mexico, Canada, Haiti and other countries but total exports to North American countries increased slightly.

Lard shipments to South American countries were down by nearly one-half, due chiefly to reduced exports to Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia. Exports to Asiatic countries remained small.

U.S. EXPORTS OF TALLOW AND GREASES CONTINUE AT HIGH LEVEL

Exports of inedible animal tallow, greases and oils from the United States during 1954 amounted to 581,053 short tons. This volume was only 3 percent less than the record quantity exported in 1953 and represents a continuation of high-level postwar exports of inedible animal fats.

The increase in exportable supplies of inedible tallow and greases during and since the war is largely the result of the rapid expansion in the livestock industry in the United States during and after the war. Moreover, the rapid increase in consumption of synthetic detergents in the United States has served to displace large quantities of inedible tallow and greases formerly used in soap manufacture.

Western Europe remained the major area outlet for United States tallow and greases, although exports to this area were down moderately from the preceding year. While shipments to the Netherlands, the largest single market, were substantially above 1953, the increase was not sufficient to offset sizable reductions in exports to Western Germany, Belgium-Luxembourg, and Switzerland.

Exports to Japan, while second only to the Netherlands, were down 11 percent. And this decrease was largely responsible for the drop in total shipments to Asiatic countries. Shipments of American inedible animal fats to Egypt and the Union of South Africa were nearly the same as the year before, making up the bulk of the quantity going to Africa.

Mexico, Cuba and Canada remained the principal North American destinations, and exports to these countries in 1954 did not differ greatly from the year before. The bulk of the exports going to South America went to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Chile.

(SEE TABLE ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

UNITED STATES: Exports of inedible animal tallow, greases, and oils,
by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1951-1954

(Short tons)

Country of destination	Average 1935-39	1951	1952	1953 1/	1954 1/
<u>North America:</u>					
British West Indies.....	3:	1,966	1,861	1,064	1,456
Canada.....	2,176	19,745	14,072	8,207	6,720
Cuba.....	538	17,010	14,303	13,855	15,963
Dominican Republic.....	132	1,524	2,309	2,234	1,663
El Salvador..... ^{2/}		526	1,652	1,977	2,675
Guatemala.....	98	1,041	2,609	1,628	2,173
Mexico.....	133	13,313	22,848	22,954	23,140
Other.....	177	1,305	1,916	1,552	1,636
Total.....	3,257	56,430	61,570	53,471	55,426
<u>South America:</u>					
Chile.....	3:	2,265	918	6,135	2,445
Colombia.....	41	1,610	5,040	10,117	8,030
Ecuador.....	1:	1,421	2,221	3,644	4,179
Peru.....	19	3,165	5,583	5,775	4,887
Other.....	30	933	1,417	1,328	4,168
Total.....	94	9,394	15,179	26,999	23,709
<u>Europe:</u>					
Austria..... ^{3/}		5,841	3,400	3,566	1,750
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	250	30,574	21,462	42,892	23,557
France.....	35	2,160	1,454	9,362	10,353
Germany (Western) ^{4/} ^{3/}	49	13,459	17,365	74,323	54,261
Ireland.....	1:	3,273	2,969	1,660	2,923
Italy.....	154	47,666	55,252	65,000	79,445
Netherlands.....	682	5,442	26,452	79,994	105,688
Norway.....	49	964	1,960	1,533	2,259
Switzerland.....	56	8,498	16,971	31,238	12,551
United Kingdom.....	257	3,782	10,016	5,688	4,770
Yugoslavia.....	1:	7,018	6,820	11,095	10,728
Other.....	115	3,003	4,149	3,749	8,792
Total.....	1,649	131,680	168,270	330,100	317,077
<u>Asia:</u>					
Japan.....	51	28,340	67,540	108,806	96,307
Korea.....	-	2,390	2,022	3,892	6,634
Philippines, Republic of ..	25	5,314	4,588	5,703	5,989
Taiwan (Formosa).....	-	4,259	5,068	6,864	10,927
Other.....	29	2,545	6,202	6,456	7,082
Total.....	105	42,848	85,420	131,721	126,939
<u>Australia and Oceania</u>	48	2	1	1	-
<u>Africa:</u>					
Egypt.....	2	4,848	16,052	23,291	23,414
Southern Rhodesia.....	-	2,055	2,053	1,384	1,057
Union of South Africa.....	7	18,583	23,320	29,619	29,200
Other.....	-	3,369	2,283	1,917	4,168
Total.....	9	28,855	43,708	56,211	57,839
Grand Total.....	5,162	269,209	374,148	598,503	558,053

^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} Less than .5 ton. ^{3/} Austria included with Germany.^{4/} Prior to January 1952, reported as Germany. ^{5/} Includes 63 tons, the final destination of which has not yet been designated.

FRANCE TO SUBSIDIZE OILSEED PRODUCTION

The French Government issued two decrees in November 1954 on organization of the edible oils market designed to make the French Union more self-sufficient in oilseeds while providing an alternative crop for sugarbeets, reports H. H. Bell, Consul, American Embassy, Paris. Although subsidies for carrying out the oilseeds policy may not be much less than those paid in the past in support of the sugarbeet-alcohol market, the greater self-sufficiency and the expected foreign exchange saving are considered to justify the policy from the national standpoint.

The first decree provided for Government price-fixing, creation of an oilseed market support fund to finance price stabilization operations, and establishment of the following annual refined oil quotas, within which price support will be provided: Peanut oil - 225,000 metric tons (248,018 short tons); oil from domestic oilseeds - 97,500 metric tons (107,474); and olive oil - 97,500 metric tons (107,474 short tons).

The second decree provided for support of colza (rapeseed, the principal French oilseed) at a base price of 6600 francs per quintal (\$171 per short ton) from 1955 to 1959. After 1955, however, the base price will be adjusted for fluctuations in indices or prices farmers pay for production and consumption goods, with a 1-percent annual decrease to allow for increases in productivity (similar to the formula for determining the wheat price). Support operations will consist of paying farmers the difference between the support and the market price.

Provisions were also made for setting the price of peanuts. Prices of other oilseeds and oils will be based on prices of rapeseed and peanuts.

The decree appeared too late to affect the size of the 1955 colza crop. Moreover, insect pest problems and the need to persuade farmers to shift away from production of surplus crops such as sugarbeets, wheat, and wine will delay the full effect of the policy. By 1956 it is expected that rapeseed production may reach 220,000 short tons, compared with 85,000 tons in 1954, but during 1955 France will probably continue to import a substantial tonnage of oilseeds.

- - - - -

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request
from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S.
Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Sales Promotion Can Help U. S. Wheat Sales in India. Foreign Agriculture Circular FG 8-55.

Second Survey Confirms Smaller World Corn Crop. Foreign Agriculture Circular FG 7-55.

1954 Fig Crop Same as Last Year. Foreign Agriculture Circular FDF 4-55.

1955 Cashew Supply Slightly Larger. Foreign Agriculture Circular FN 3-55.

U. S. Unmanufactured Tobacco Exports Higher in 1953-54 Crop Year. Foreign Agriculture Circular FT 5-55.

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Current wholesale prices at specified markets with comparisons
(In U. S. Cents Per Pounds)

Country, market and description	Butter						Cheese					
			Quotations			Date			Quotations			Date
	Date	Price	Month	Year	earlier		1954	Price	Month	Year	earlier	
United Kingdom (London)	:	:	:	:	:	:						
New Zealand Finest Grade	: Jan. 27:	43.7	45.4	40.6	-							
New Zealand Finest White	: -	-	-	-	-		: Jan. 27:	20.0	22.5	24.9		
Australia (Sydney)	:	:	:	:	:							
Choicest butter	: Jan. 28:	41.4	41.4	41.4	-							
Choicest Cheddar	: -	-	-	-	-		: Jan. 28:	25.4	25.4	25.4		
Irish Republic (Dublin)	:	:	:	:	:							
Creamery butter (bulk)	: Jan. 31:	48.8	48.8	54.7	-							
Cheese	: -	-	-	-	-		: Jan. 31:	30.8	30.8	30.8		
Denmark (Copenhagen)	: Jan. 27:	43.7	43.7	44.7	-							
France (Paris)	:	:	:	:	:							
Charentes Creamery butter	: Jan. 26:	82.9	81.6	95.9	-							
Germany (Kempten)	:	:	:	:	:							
Markenbutter	: Jan. 26:	64.3	63.8	60.6	-							
United States	:	:	:	:	:							
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	: Jan. 28:	58.2	60.5	65.9	-							
Cheddar (Wisconsin)	: -	-	-	-	-		: Jan. 28:	31.8	32.5	35.4		
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)	:	:	:	:	:							
Creamery butter	: Jan. 29:	-	49.8	49.9	-							
Full cream Gouda	: -	-	-	-	-		: Jan. 21:	27.7	27.5	25.7		
Edam 40 percent	: -	-	-	-	-		: Jan. 21:	25.3	24.4	22.0		
Belgium (Hasseit)	: Jan. 27:	86.2	84.4	87.3	-							
Canada (Montreal)	:	:	:	:	:							
1st grade creamery	: Jan. 22:	63.2	63.1	63.4	-							
Ontario white	: -	-	-	-	-		: Jan. 22:	30.9	30.9	35.0		

Sources: Intelligence Bulletin, The Commonwealth Economic Committee; U. S. Consular Reports; and The Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS LOWER IN 1954

Total exports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1954 amounted to 452.3 million pounds compared with 518.7 million pounds in 1953--about a 13 percent decrease. Exports of flue-cured tobacco were about 16 percent below 1953, due mainly to smaller takings by the United Kingdom (148.0 million pounds in 1954 compared with 177.6 million pounds in 1953), and West Germany.

Exports of Burley tobacco increased 17 percent during 1954, largely as a result of increased shipments to Mexico, the Netherlands, France, Portugal and Italy. Exports to Belgium and Luxembourg and West Germany decreased in 1954 compared with 1953.

Exports of Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, Maryland, Green River, Virginia sun-cured and Black Fat increased in 1954 compared with 1953. Exports of all other types fell below 1953 shipments.

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in December 1954 totaled 39.3 million pounds valued at \$26.0 million. This was 19.0 million pounds below November exports and about 44 percent below December 1953.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco were 33.6 million pounds, compared with 60.8 million pounds in December 1953--about a 45 percent decrease. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to the United Kingdom in December were 8.4 million pounds, compared with 20.9 million pounds in November and 22.9 million pounds in December 1953. December shipments of flue-cured tobacco decreased to most countries compared with November takings. The largest increase was in takings by the Republic of the Philippines amounting to 5.9 million pounds compared with 108,000 pounds in November.

There were decreases in exports of Burley, Virginia fire-cured, Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, One Sucker, Cigar Binder, Cigar Filler, Black Fat, and Trimmings, Stems and Scrap. The largest increases occurred in exports of Maryland and Green River tobacco. The increase in Maryland tobacco was due to larger takings by Switzerland which amounted to 965,000 pounds, compared with 95,000 pounds in December 1953. The increase in Green River exports was in shipments to France of 114,000 pounds in December compared with no shipments in 1953.

Exports of tobacco products, valued at \$6.0 million, were about 2 percent higher in December 1954 than in the same month last year. There were increases in exports of chewing tobacco and snuff and smoking tobacco in bulk. All other products showed decreases.

Exports for the year 1954 were higher for cigars and cheroots, and chewing tobacco and snuff compared with exports for 1953. Exports of all other products dropped in 1954, with cigarettes declining 5 percent.

(Tables on following pages)

UNITED STATES: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco by principal countries of destination in 1954 1/

Country of Destination	Declared Weight	Kentucky-	Burley	Tennessee	Virginia	Virginia	Maryland	Green	One	Cigar	Wrapper	Cigar	Perique	Trimmings,		
		Fine-Cured	Fine-Cured	Fire-Cured	Sun-Cured	River	Sucker	Fat	Shade	Binders	Filler	Scrap	Stems & Scrap	Total		
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds			
United Kingdom	147,997	236	420	167	-	-	967	7	13	4	-	34	11	149,856		
France	2,653	2,137	6,658	-	48	-	738	320	243	4	-	-	-	12,753		
Italy	1,011	2,410	445	4,507	4.24	-	420	177	85	-	182	99	31	3,914		
Netherlands	29,914	2,000	-	-	-	-	435	-	-	-	-	-	241	38,090		
Spain	2,167	1,123	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	529	3,224		
Ireland	13,701	-	280	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,040		
Belgium & Luxembourg	7,479	2,480	970	26	-	-	425	131	178	-	377	211	6	12,324		
Denmark	7,946	500	683	29	-	-	38	-	-	-	96	80	-	9,550		
Norway	5,104	656	100	1,432	80	7	-	-	-	-	3	-	10	7,630		
Portugal	2,663	4,460	172	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,322		
Sweden	7,895	299	108	619	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	166	-	9,631		
Switzerland	2,789	705	1,769	285	-	-	5,818	-	-	-	150	152	2	11,677		
West Germany	34,819	3,741	673	150	-	-	482	-	3	-	1,599	566	-	42,103		
Austria	1,254	365	28	64	-	-	9	-	-	-	21	183	-	1,924		
Yugoslavia	182	609	27	-	-	-	589	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,407		
Canada	30	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	392	116	3	669		
Mexico	1,800	4,031	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	5,873		
Uruguay	1,644	195	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	47	1,912		
British Guiana	356	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	403		
Brazil	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	-	-	72		
Philippine Republic	18,484	886	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	19,455		
Hong Kong	2,888	582	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,470		
Japan	6,692	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,692		
Australia	27,894	63	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	46	-	28,232		
New Zealand	6,223	10	173	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6,639		
Indonesia	9,748	-	578	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,326		
India	1,247	37	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	1	-	-	1,303		
Pakistan	2,165	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,165		
Thailand	4,577	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,581		
Indochina	1,858	22	-	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	2,054		
British West Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6		
Nigeria	1,055	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,768		
Gold Coast	-	-	241	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,223		
French Africa:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Algeria & Tunisia	550	81	124	31	-	-	279	-	28	-	852	26	-	1,091		
Other	220	39	1,168	20	-	-	111	-	10	-	10	7	-	2,766		
Egypt	4,918	749	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,742		
All Other	13,812	1,843	1,557	109	1	9	52	-	39	-	213	96	11	1,367		
Total	373,745	29,259	20,945	3,933	81	-	8,670	2,102	864	4,536	3,491	1,723	158	50	452,284	
Declared value 1,000 dollars	257,593	14,988	10,613	2,451	44	-	5,666	749	339	3,379	5,065	1,676	47	57	399	303,066

1/ Preliminary

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of U. S. Unmanufactured Tobacco, December 1954 and
January-December 1954 with Comparisons

(Export Weight)

Type	December		Percent Change	January-December		Percent Change
	1953	1954		1953	1954	
Flue-cured.....	60,763	33,617	- 44.7	444,306	373,745	- 15.9
Burley.....	3,618	1,550	- 57.2	25,007	29,259	+ 17.0
Virginia Fire-cured.....	870	689	- 20.8	4,276	3,933	- 8.1
Dark-Fired Kentucky-Tennessee:	1,930	857	- 55.5	19,485	20,945	+ 7.5
Maryland.....	258	1,100	+ 326.4	8,135	8,670	+ 6.6
Green River.....	142	241	+ 69.7	1,829	2,102	+ 14.9
One Sucker.....	162	82	- 49.4	1,023	864	- 15.5
Cigar Wrapper.....	284	289	+ 1.8	3,901	3,491	- 10.5
Cigar Binder.....	296	265	- 10.5	3,100	1,723	- 44.4
Cigar Filler.....	34	0	0	587	158	- 73.1
Other.....	1,221	589	- 51.8	7,016	7,394	+ 5.4
Total.....	69,578	39,279	- 43.5	518,665	452,284	- 12.8
Declared Value (million dollars)	47.3	26.0	- 45.1	341.3	303.1	- 11.2

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of U. S. Tobacco Products December 1954,
with Comparisons

Class of Products	December		Percent Change	January-December		Percent Change
	1953	1954		1953	1954	
Cigars and Cheroots	717	670	- 6.6	6,314	8,228	+ 30.3
(1,000 pieces)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Cigarettes.....	1,416	1,399	- 1.2	16,249	15,426	- 5.1
(million pieces)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Chewing Tobacco & Snuff.....	177	288	+ 62.7	1,631	2,116	+ 29.7
(1,000 pounds)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Smoking Tobacco in Packages..	39	38	- 2.6	638	571	- 10.5
(1,000 pounds)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Smoking Tobacco in Bulk.....	517	708	+ 36.9	4,680	4,645	- 0.7
(1,000 pounds)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Declared Value	5.9	6.0	+ 1.7	64.1	63.2	- 1.4
(million dollars)	:	:	:	:	:	:

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for Private Use to Avoid
Payment of Postage, \$300
(PMGC)

Official Business